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Edmund Molyneux

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Edmund Molyneux (fl. 1587), was a [biographer](#) and [Secretary](#) to the [Lord](#) Lieutenant of [Ireland](#).

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Family

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He was the third son of Sir Edmund Molyneux, a justice of the [Court of Common Pleas](#) by Jane, daughter of John Cheney of Chesham Bois, [Buckinghamshire](#).^[1]

Career

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[Thomas Tanner](#), citing '[Cabala; mysteries of state, in letters of the great ministers of K. James and K. Charles'](#)^[] ed. 1663, p. 140, identifies him as 'one Moleneux,' who, after being in the employ of [Sir William Cecil](#) and 'misusing' him, sought in August 1567 the post of secretary to [Sir Henry Norris](#), the English ambassador to [France](#). An Edmund Molyneux was admitted of [Gray's Inn](#) in 1574.^[2] Edmund Molyneux became secretary to Sir [Henry Sidney](#), and accompanied him to Ireland, where he acted as clerk of the council.^[3] Sidney did his best to advance Molyneux' interests at court. On 20 September 1576 he wrote a long letter in his favour to Burghley,^[4] and in November 1576 vainly asked the privy council to appoint Molyneux, along with another, supervisor of the attorneys, who had 'grown very crafty and corrupt'.^[5] In September 1578 Molyneux was sent by Sidney to [London](#) to report upon the state of Ireland.^[6] On 31 December 1579 he petitioned the privy council for his 'despatch and payment after long suit'.^[7]

Molyneux furnished an account of Sir Henry, Sir Philip, Sir Robert, and Thomas Sidney to [Holinshed's Chronicles](#) (ed. 1587, iii. [1548-56](#)^[]), in which he complained that Sir Henry Sidney, however he might strive, never succeeded in obtaining for him a comfortable office or reward of any kind. The enmity of Burghley probably retarded his advancement.

References

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- [Calendar of the Carew Manuscripts Preserved in the Archiepiscopal Library at Lambeth](#)^[] , Volume 1, 1515–74, pp. 401, 402;
- [Thomas Tanner](#), [Bibliotheca Britannico-Hibernica](#)^[] , p. 530;
- [Holinshed's Chronicles](#), ed. 1587, iii. [1590](#)^[] ;
- Calendar of State Papers, Domestic. Edward VI, Mary, Elizabeth, and James I, Volume 1, 1547–80, p. [195](#)^[] ;
- [Arthur Collins](#), [Letters and Memorials of State in the Reigns of Queen Mary, Queen Elizabeth](#)^[] , i. 66, 210, 227, 239, 240, 296.

Notes

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- ↑ [Gisbourne Molineux](#), Memoir of the Molineux Family, p. [30](#)^[]
- ↑ [The Harleian Miscellany](#) 1912, f. 53
- ↑ [Calendar of the State Papers relating to Ireland, of the reigns of Henry VIII, Edward VI., Mary, and Elizabeth](#), Volume 1, 1509-73, pp. [422](#)^[] , [443](#)^[]
- ↑ [Calendar of the State Papers relating to Ireland, of the reigns of Henry VIII, Edward VI., Mary, and Elizabeth](#), Volume 2, 1574-85, p. [99](#)^[]
- ↑ [Arthur Collins](#), [Letters and Memorials of State in the Reigns of Queen Mary, Queen Elizabeth](#)^[] , i. 145, 187-8, 194
- ↑ [Calendar of the State Papers relating to Ireland, of the reigns of Henry VIII, Edward VI., Mary, and Elizabeth](#), Volume 2, 1574-85, p. [142](#)^[]
- ↑ [Calendar of the State Papers relating to Ireland, of the reigns of Henry VIII, Edward VI., Mary, and Elizabeth](#), Volume 2, 1574-85, p. [203](#)^[]

Political offices		
<div>Preceded by</div> Philip Williams	Chief Secretary for Ireland <div>1575-?</div>	<div>Succeeded by</div> Edmund Spenser

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